

Mountain Club of South Africa KwaZulu-Natal Section

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NEWSLETTER

Jan/Feb/Mar 2008

President's Christmas and New Year Message

It seems that all of a sudden we've reached the end of another year – a year that has seen some exciting events on the social calendar, with highlights including a feature-packed slide show by Alard Hufner who thrilled the crowd with a superb description of his exploits on some of the larger rock faces around the world, including the second South African ascent of the central tower of Paine, in Patagonia. The most recent social saw a joint Durban and Pietermaritzburg event at the Inchanga hotel (Colorado for those of you who were regulars at Monteseel in the 80's). I hope to see more of these joint events in future, it was good to mix with the strange folks from up North.

We've also had some well-known events, with July Camp taking place at Sungubala this year. Once again ably organized by Rikki Abbott, with a ton of help from Ron Wedderburn (unfortunately sidelined in hospital with a knee operation) and the other sub-committee members. We've seen the rescue convenor test his team by insisting on a helicopter ride back from the national ice climbing meet at Giants Castle (sorry Gavin, I had to include this). The Durban Bouldering Competition (DBC) is into its sixth year and still going strong, driven by the enthusiasm of our sport and competition climbing convenor Dave Drummond. We've had members participating in the Rock and Road trip, where the country's top climbers performed spectacular feats of high end sport climbing. The final of this event was filmed and broadcast live to hundreds of spectators at the Watervalboven Rock Rally. Of course there were a number of members who chose to visit cold, high and snowy places. All in all a pretty full year and I've left out half of it, but I have to stop here (note to Editor: 316 words, only 16 over the limit!!).

All that remains is for me to wish you and yours a very merry, fun filled Christmas and a spectacular New Year with plenty of time in the mountains.

With warm climbing regards, Scott

Membership

We welcome the following new members to the club: Alison Brown and Kerri Bridges.

Members are reminded that next year's subs will become due from January 2008, when the statements are sent out. The revised costs will be as follows:

OM from 210.00 to 220.00
OJ from 150.00 to 160.00
CM from 135.00 to 145.00
CJ from 100.00 to 105.00

AM from 90.00 to 95.00
AJ from 150.00 to 160.00
Family members – free

Club News

The MCSA-KZN section AGM will be held at the Assagay Hotel (old Polo Pony Hotel), Shongweni, on Saturday 15 March 2008 at 3 pm.

Those members who have a long distance to travel, can come early and partake of a bar lunch at the Hotel, beforehand.

Further details will be sent to members nearer the time via 'snailmail' and email.

CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR JOURNAL 2007

Please remember that contributions for the 2007 Journal should reach the editor, Cally Henderson (callyh@envmc2.co.za; 011-326 3150; 082-600 8795) **by 31 January 2008**. Late submissions will not be accepted after 31 March 2008, and submissions missing information as requested below will also be returned to authors.

Submission information

1. Each article submitted *must* have a TITLE, AUTHOR NAME, FULL AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS.
2. Photographs, if submitted, must be submitted *at the same time as the article* (not months later). No more than TEN photos may be submitted and they must be submitted immediately in HIGH RESOLUTION, as jpg or tiff files (min 1.5 Mb per photo preferably). Photos *must* be accompanied by an MSWORD TABLE WITH PHOTO FILE NAME, CAPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHER for each photo. If there are particular photos you feel it is essential be included in the article, please indicate as much. Photos are *not* to be submitted embedded in the Word document – we cannot print from such format.

All material can be emailed to the editor, so long as individual messages do not exceed 5 Mb.

Please use the Style Sheet on the website at:

http://www.mcsa.org.za/cent/11_media/journal/journal.php as a guide to *spelling conventions for mountaineering terms* and especially for *route description style and layout*. Route descriptions submitted which deviate significantly from the guideline format will be returned to authors for correction. Please be very clear in route descriptions – they often present many problems and much to'ing and fro'ing with authors. Check route descriptions in previous issues of the Journal.

We would prefer ALL material to be submitted in electronic format: if you have prints or slides, please could *you* get them scanned (at 300 dpi resolution) (all photographic shops now offer scanning services). Nonetheless, high resolution digital images copied to CD, prints (must be very good quality and sharp for use in publishing) and 35mm slides may be posted to:

The Editor - Journal 2006/ C Henderson;
PO Box 413828,
CRAIGHALL 2024.

Rory Lowther Memorial Challenge 2008

1 – 3 February 2008 at Swinburne, Harrismith
Climbing – Hiking – Bouldering – Burn-a-thon – Inter-school competition
Photographic competition
Pre-register online www.rorylowther.co.za
Information: 0833782272

International Climbing Meet, to be hosted by Johannesburg Section: Ulrike Kiefer is planning another international climbing meet over Easter next year. The meet will run from 15.3.2008 to 24.3.2008. Anyone interested in joining the meet and acting as climbing partner cum guide for our guests, or willing to help in any other way, especially with transport between the climbing areas, must please contact Ulrike Kiefer at ukiefer@icon.co.za
More details will be available on the MCSA website <http://www.mcsa.org.za>

2008 National Meet, Wolkberg: The Johannesburg Section will be hosting the annual national meet in the Wolkberg from the 25 April until the 4 May 2008. Stay as long as you like, and members can join the meet at any stage. However those attending should plan to join the catered formal dinner on the evening of Saturday 26 April. Available activities include hiking (day walks to several days), climbing and a guided walk by a prominent horticulturist. Camping facilities include hot water showers, firewood and toilets. A commemorative T- shirt and song book will be available.
Enquiries: Michael Grant: olmec@alink.co.za
Cell: 082 940 9493

Reminder: the Club newsletter can be viewed on the MCSA-KZN webpage: <http://kzn.mcsa.org.za>

RE-SIGHTINGS OF BEARDED VULTURE: KZN Wildlife requires assistance in the sighting of marked Bearded Vultures. The Bearded Vulture is an endangered species occurring in the Maloti-Drakensberg mountains. Their numbers are continually declining as a result of several threats including a shortage of the right type of food, poisonings and collisions with power lines. KZN Wildlife is monitoring the Bearded Vulture population to obtain more information on where these birds feed, roost and nest. This information will highlight potential threats that need to be addressed to save the species from extinction. They have marked a few birds by bleaching their wing feathers and now need your help in finding these marked birds.

If you see a marked bird, record and send in the following information: date, time, location, which wing is bleached, whether the top or bottom feathers of the wing were bleached, take a photograph if possible. Note that the Bearded Vulture could be confused with the Black Eagle or the Cape Vulture. You can get a pamphlet from KZN Wildlife to make things clearer: Sonja Krueger (skruger@kznwildlife.com, 27 33 239 1514). Please report information to gypaetus@kznwildlife.com or Sonja Krüger.

Hiking News

WHYTES CAVE HIKE, 4/5 August 2007

by Margaret Brown

There were four takers: Iona Stewart, Jane Dickinson, Julian Hitchcock, a visitor, and myself as the leader.

We left in mist and slight drizzle but arrived at Bushman's Nek in sunshine. We seemed to have the place to ourselves and set off just after 09:00 a.m. The route goes back along the hiking trail for a few kilometres of uphill, then turns off to the left with intermittent path to Painters' Cave, where we found a sheltered spot, from the slight nippy breeze, for lunch. The next

stop, over the ridge, was White Horse cave for a few photos. Half an hour later we were in our cave and very cold as the sun had disappeared behind clouds and mist. During the night the stars and moon appeared and the sun shone into the cave at 06:45 a.m.

We were disappointed to find a lot of toilet paper right next to the stream below the cave. This is the second time there has been pollution in the vicinity (seen in June). The return journey was uneventful except for even thicker ice on the stream at Painters' Cave. We were able to break it and fill our water bottles. Apart for three vaalribbok that were sighted on Saturday, we did not see much game.

FUN AT FUN CAVE. 29/30 September, 2007 *by Iona Stewart*

Lorna Backhouse's trip to the Sentinel area was rescheduled, so we all went to Fun Cave in the Mzimkulu Wilderness of the Southern Berg instead. There were seven of us – Lorna, Carl and Isabella Fatti, Glynnis the Vet, James Voortman, Mariam (a visitor and friend of Lorna's), and myself.

The forecast was for rain, so tents were carried in case the Umzimkulu Pipeline proved daunting. After a delayed start, we finally set off from John Hamilton's farm at 10:30, in overcast, cool but dry weather. The rickety bridge and the almost impassable road to the parking spot have been replaced by a sturdy concrete and iron bridge and the road is like a highway. Compared with the drought conditions that have prevailed in the Natal Midlands, the veld here was luxuriantly green. However, the Umzimkulu River was very low.

Our first excitement was a couple of hours' into the hike when Lorna disturbed a beautiful fat berg adder - or maybe the adder disturbed her. It was about 60 cm long and 3cm at its fattest, right in the path and rather reluctant to move away, giving us a wonderful opportunity to get a good look at it.

We stopped for lunch at the river just off the path, which is when rain made itself felt. The pipeline - a first for some - was an anti-climax. The river was so low that hiking through it was easy and extra imagination was needed to realise it was aptly named. Perhaps the most dicey part of the whole hike was coming out of the pipeline and ascending the other bank. The rocks were very slippery and it took careful foot placing to avoid a fall.

As we approached the cave, it began to drizzle, but the cave was nice and dry, with lots of space to spread out. The Alpha Dog's bench was still in place, as was the very nicely constructed rock table. James with his engineering ingenuity strung up a very useful line on which to hang all our wet gear.

It is a long pull up to the cave and took us just over six hours, which included stops. We crossed the river 11 times!! Many of us felt our legs had turned to jelly by the time we got to the cave but no one felt exhausted.

Sitting around a stone table, imbibing wine and other beverages is such a special time - fun time. We had many laughs, exchanged stories, heard bits about Carl's recent trip to Kyrghzstan, Mariom from Bahrain had interesting tales to tell, and all in all it was a lovely evening. Thank goodness we did not have to use tents - they are not as sociable as a cave.

We finally dossed down in our sleeping bags, serenaded by the Frog Orchestra playing a rendition of the Amphibians' Symphony, accompanied by the sound of heavy rain. Sunday dawned misty with drizzle threatening.

There seemed little point in going up to Speir's Cave or the escarpment, so after a leisurely breakfast, we headed down again - 11 crossings once more. The scenery was exquisite. We passed a lovely stretch of natural bush that had many large and old looking trees in it. They looked as though they had survived a fire at some period of their lives, judging by their charred branches. We also saw *Haemanthus natalensis* (*Scadoxus puniceus*) just coming into flower. The *Leucosidea sericea* (Umtshitshi) was in full flower, many inflorescences still displaying their yellow florets. One lonesome Eland ran ahead of us in the path and later the hikers up front saw ten more, and a huge Stanley bustard. As usual we were hailed by baboons out feeding on the slopes. By the time we got to the cars, we were hiking in drizzle, but it was not unpleasant at all. It was a great weekend, lead by a great leader. We are so fortunate that, even though Lorna has migrated to Klerksdorp, she still takes the trouble to come back here at weekends.

Question: how did Fun Cave get its name?

White Umfolozi News

by Gavin Peckham

Almost 30 people attended the annual Umfolozi Meet during the September long weekend. The party was split between the camps on north and south banks and included about a dozen most welcome visitors from north of the Vaal. The weather was warm but not too hot and there was much swimming between climbs. This included the ghastly sight of a Committee member wallowing in all his glory like a stranded whale. For the first time in many meets, no new routes were opened although several are pending. Despite this a significant number of routes up to grade 21 were climbed. It was heartening to note that many of the better trad routes also attracted the attention of climbers – even a notorious bolter dusted off his trad rack and tackled a few. The evenings were, as usual, highly sociable occasions around the camp fire.

There are over a dozen open projects in the 25 to 30+ grade range with the potential for many more new routes at these grades. It is a pity that our "harder" climbers have failed to develop the potential climbs available at this magnificent venue.

Of some concern is the fact that the land on the north bank is again up for sale. This means that access is no longer secure and will have to be negotiated all over again. Fortunately Mr Greef's camp on the south bank continues to provide excellent access and facilities for climbers – something for which we should be extremely grateful.

The ideal winter days are over for this year; however, the area still offers excellent summer climbing as each of the various faces is in shade at some time or another during the day. The effects of the heat can also be minimized by starting early, taking a long midday siesta and then heading for the rock again as the sun dips towards the horizon.

WONDER VALLEY CAVE (6/7/Oct. 2007)

by Iona Stewart

The combination of the forecast of 80% rain, plus the fact that the powers that be did not consult the MCSA Meet sheet when they planned the rugby schedule! meant that only three out of the original eight hikers went to Wonder Valley Cave on 6/7 October. They were Tish and Dave Lea and myself.

We left the car at Injisuthi at 09:00 and made good time to the cave, getting there in time for lunch, after many stops to inspect and photograph all the wonderful flowers that were coming in to bloom. It was overcast and cool, but very pleasant for hiking.

After lunch we went down to the waterfall and pool to fill our water bottles. I was shattered at the deterioration of the path on the steep bits. It has eroded so deeply in places, there was no way anyone could walk in it. So now a new path is being formed which will also erode if not stabilised.

We had hardly finished our supper when the heavens opened and we got the 80% rain promised, so we snuggled into warm clothes and played cards! Sunday dawned clear and clean, with snow on the high mountains above us. We set off on a path we thought was Shada Ridge, but we did not come out where we thought we would, so we turned back, having seen more and more beautiful flowers - however, not before we had had a really good look at the valley leading to Cataract Gorge. To our horror, there stood a huge pine tree which was on a steep slope and high up the valley, but not inaccessible from the top. A meet for the autumn was quickly planned when hopefully we can do something to eradicate it.

At the top of the pass, we dropped our packs and explored the gorge and waterfall to the north, before descending once more and back to the car. Climbing up Von Heynigens Pass, we met two staff members from Ezemvelo who had been doing maintenance work on the paths up as far as the top of the pass. Pity they did not go a little further as from then on there is a lot of erosion which could quite easily be managed. Otherwise, there is much evidence of alien plant eradication and path repairs, but sadly, only within a certain radius of the camp.

EMERALD STREAM & CRANE TARN 10/11 Nov 2007

by Iona Stewart

Fifteen people applied to go on this trip, and as there are not supposed to be more than 12 in a party, Steve Cooke headed one mountain register list and I, Iona Stewart headed the other. It was a beautiful day, partly cloudy, warm enough to swim but not sweltering. We followed the path along Emerald Stream and then took off, straight uphill, and another hill, and yet another until we came out onto the Crane Tarn, where we pitched our tents.

There is confusion in the maps -the old Slingsby map says we were at Crane Pan, the 1st edition of the new maps only draws a pan, though there are a few, and the 2nd



edition had Crane Tarn somewhere in the Mzilkulwane valley!! I wonder where we were?

Thus far, we had only hiked about 6km, so by 13:30 we were ready for more. Some went off to swim, one had a snooze and the rest of us went in search of a Bearded Vulture chick, supposed to be in a nest in the krantzies to the north of our camp. We went round and over, but saw no chick. But we did see another "top" so hiked up it, inspecting all the water filled blow holes in the rocks for tadpoles and other water creatures. After climbing the third "top", we descended via a ridge overlooking the Emerald stream from where we had a glimpse of Pinnacle Rock. Thanks to adventurers like Carl and Steve, we made a near vertical descent down a grassy slope and after a most enjoyable 4.5 hour afternoon hike, found ourselves back in camp with just enough light to cook supper.

In the morning, once the mist had burnt off, we packed up and headed for Pinnacle Rock, where we could have spent the whole day. There were Bushman paintings, artefacts, plant life and more to examine, not to mention the inviting rock faces to climb. From there we went down into the Gxalangengwa valley, stopping part way to enjoy all the eland - a herd of cows and calves higher up, and a bunch of bulls further on.

By now it was really warm and the water beckoned, so did food. We indulged in both and then set off on the path that joined the Giant's Cup Trail to a glorious lunch spot in among trees and rocks. It is really quite a challenge taking a mob of climbers/hikers to the berg - it was with great difficulty that I got them going again from this lovely lunch spot - they thought they could just lol there for the rest of the day, but we still had about eight km to go, having covered only seven that day. Reason prevailed and we headed once more for the cars, having had a most enjoyable and reasonably active weekend. The weather was perfect and the company even better.

Those that came were:-

Steve Cooke, Carl Fatti, Jane Dickinson, Lorna Backhouse, James Voortman, Mike Lebowski, Trish Joslin and her friends Gareth and Maryanna, Mike and Mavis Morris, Tish and Dave Lea, and a very interesting visitor from France, Dominique - she being a physiologist and expert in mountain sickness problems, who had been invited to SA by the MCSA Rescue Teams.

Rock Climbing

Following the Legends at Craig Lea:

by Bruce Tomalin

On Sunday the 3rd November 2007, Carl Fatti organised a meet to this area where he remembered having a lot of fun (and one tragic incident) from 1967 onwards with the Pietermaritzburg University mountain club.

Various excuses were offered by others, but ultimately it was just Carl and I left to revive the ghosts. We used Gerald Camp's 1989 Natal rock route guide, which has a comprehensive Craig Lea section.

The approach is not too promising - consisting of leaving cars outside the abattoir (fairly secure with a friendly guard), walking across a flat grassy plain with old foundations here and there, good views of Table Mountain, ringed by impressive looking cliffs, the back of Old Baldy, the whole of Monteseel's two wings and, somewhat less inspiring, the Cato Ridge settlement. Being a very clear day we could even see the profile of Giants Castle on the horizon over Table Mountain. We walked north to the northern buttress past the site of the

oil- dumping saga (now tar blobs and fortunately not over any climbing areas), over a wire fence, past a radio mast and an occupied building on the northern tip of the buttress. An easy scramble down and around brought us, with a minor amount of bush clearing, onto the old path along the base of the crag. Here we passed through a rubbish tip from the house above, before arriving at the main crag. We subsequently set up two small cairns to mark an abseil point using a small but sturdy fig tree down the Shepherds Slab, which will allow future visitors to avoid the smell - and potential trespass problems through the house's garden.

The valley looks stunning and is filled with birdlife and indigenous forest; there are granite domes underlying the sandstone and granite boulders on the upper slopes in amongst dense forest, including an unusual vertical granite wall between the northern and southern buttresses. Boulderers might find something interesting here, involving some bundu bashing. Unfortunately the river below is spoilt by a sandwinning operation and the opposite ridge is densely populated.

We explored the northern part of the northern buttress. The crag is some 20 to 23 m high with several bushy corners but also good clean faces between. Some of the climb names are marked on the rock, which was a huge help. We did Shepherds Pie (13) - starting in the bottom left corner of a face, a rising traverse across the face, ending up with airy moves up the right hand sky line. Really interesting for a 13, protection required some thought; I did clip a peg with a ring out of respect for the legends but made sure I did not need to test its rusty strength! Heading south along a good path, now somewhat improved, we had trouble identifying routes and ended up at the 3 star 100% Diagonal E (12), which was marked. The sun went behind the cliff at about 11h30, leaving us much cooler than had we been at Monteseel, which we could see baking in the afternoon sun across the valley.

Diagonal E had a very dirty start in a chimney left of a face (a harder, much cleaner but unprotected variation could be possible to the right), but after that a traverse across to the right and up the face ending up at a small (cleaner!) chimney was great climbing; some 'interesting' pegs were clipped to help with rope management. Carl did some gardening in the chimney that would have made Peckham proud, so subsequent ascents should be a good deal more pleasant. The rock in the corners did not always look that great but proved as sturdy as any (but make sure your belayer is out of harms way). Fair bit of loose rock on top so large parties should take great care.

We had a very interesting morning (might be better to climb here in the afternoons when it is in shade) at this historical crag, with no obvious security issues (give the abattoir guard a tip), beautiful views, lots of bird and plant-life. Definitely a place worth visiting again. Thanks very much to Carl for organising another fascinating outing.

Updates on New Climbs

The route descriptions for some of the venues on our Web site have been updated recently. These include oNgoye, Shongweni, Winston Park and the White iMfolozi.

Ongoye Update

by Gavin Peckham

The concrete strips to the top of the oNgoye hills have now been completed. The only remaining obstacle to accessing this very unique area by

'normal' vehicles is the drift at the start of the strips. This usually presents no problems but may be too deep for cars with low clearance after local rain. Plans are afoot to build a causeway across this stream but it may be quite some time before this materialises. A cottage in a secluded clearing in the forest is nearing completion and should be available for bookings within a month or two. Details will be posted on the Web site and circulated on the MCSA-KZN e-mailing list as soon as they are available. Once functional, this cottage will provide ideal accommodation for climbers, MT bikers, bird watchers, photographers, etc. Camping is permitted in the designated area, but there are no facilities at all, so if you plan to camp then you will have to bring everything you need with you. Anthony van Tonder has top roped two new routes on the Barbet Boulder and permission has been obtained to bolt these soon. They are both about grade 17 which will make them the 'test pieces' of the venue. Of course the Xanadu slab and many other boulders are still waiting to be explored. If you haven't been to oNgoye before then check out the information on our web site and treat yourself to a gamut of activities in this unique area which is well within range of a day-trip from Durban.

Update on Winston Park access

by Dave Drummond

Following a meet to Winston Park it can be reported that the approach from the end of Jan Smuts Avenue to the Lonely Wall crag will take about 20 minutes to walk. The walk is flat, except for a small hill in the beginning, and in the shade. The path is all clear, and requires no bush-whacking. From the parking area, walk down the path to the top of the Jan Smuts Crag, and then follow the path right along the top of the cliff line until you reach the Lonely Wall crag. The routes are a little sandy, not having had much traffic recently, but nothing a quick brush can't fix. This makes for a good summer crag with many easy to moderate grade bolted routes and is in the shade all day.

Mountaineering

Bell Cave trip – 19/20/21 October 2007

by Carl Fatti

We had a great weekend! Attended by Bugs Sprouse, Glynnis Jones, Lorna Backhouse, James Voortman and myself. On the Saturday we hiked up to Bell Cave and arrived there in misty weather and settled into the cave, anxious that we should not get wet if it rained really hard, as it is not the best of shelters. We listened quietly to the Springboks winning the World Cup Final on the radio, whilst snuggled in our sleeping bags. Then the stars came out brilliantly and, when the morning dawned clear, 4 of us were on our way to the Outer Horn. The climb (Doyle Liebenberg's standard route) on the south side was pleasantly easy, but with an interesting bit of route finding, and it was great to finally be on the top in blazing sunshine!

We took an alternate (direct) route down, involving an exciting abseil and some more scrambling route finding that took us down to the path on the north side. The walk back down to the car park near the hotel was enhanced by the sight of beautiful flowers that had been stimulated into being by the winter veld fires.

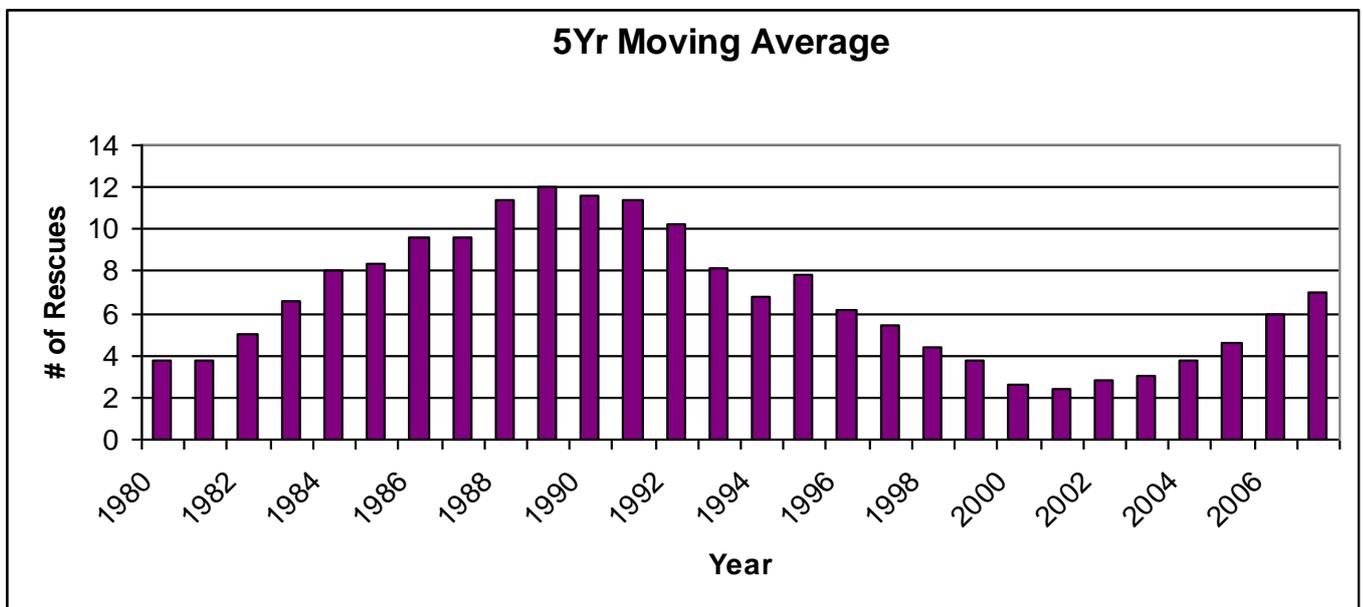
I hope to climb the Inner Horn next year, based at Twins Cave. Any takers to come along? *Yodels, Carl Fatti*

Mountain Rescue

Mountain Rescue in KZN has been in effect since the inception of the MCSA however it is only in the past 32 years that accurate records have been kept. Being a statistician I have found these reports a source of fascinating information. I have undertaken a detailed analysis of the trends and patterns, some of which might be of interest to the broader climbing community.

A rescue, for the purposes of this study, is defined as a callout involving a member of the MCSA rescue team. The rescue is not dependant on the number of people rescued but rather on the operation. This definition may be revised in the future. Many rescues have been carried out by Rangers and fellow mountaineers and have been, I am sure, kept discreetly from the official eye of the Club.

There have been a total of 211 recorded rescues. The average per year is 6 with the highest being 19 in 1988. Looking at the graph below, a distinct increasing trend can be seen from 2000 onwards. Already this year we have had 9 rescues and even more alerts.



160 (75%) of the rescues involved an injured party and the remaining 51 (25%) were searches for missing hikers. In most cases (74%) a helicopter was used but in only 27% of the cases was a winch required. Technical rescues involving a cliff rescue account for 33% of the rescues. Regrettably there have been 47 body recoveries in the past 32 years.

Regarding the type of accident, the majority are people having fallen and injured a leg. The "Other" category includes; suicides, plane crashes and canine rescues amongst others. "Sick" was mainly but not only Heart Attacks and Exhaustion related illnesses. This is interesting in that it indicates how many people underestimate the Drakensberg.

Type of Accident	Frequency	% Freq
Other	29	18%
Fallen	69	43%
Scrambling	14	9%
Sick	29	18%
Climbing Accident	19	12%
	160	100%

The number of foreigners rescued has dramatically increased in the past decade. Since 2000, 10 operations have taken place that involved a foreigner. From 2000 onwards rescue of foreigners accounted for 21% of the rescues whereas in previous decades it has accounted for only 4% of the rescues.

I was interested to note that 2 of the rescues have been of dogs and 1 for a goat. Next month's installment will detail the stats on all Drakensberg related rescues with the following one giving information on the climbing accidents in the past 32 years. For any queries please contact Lorna Backhouse at: lorna.backhouse@uranium1.com

From the Editor.....

Quotation - by Edward Abbey, environmental activist and author of *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire*.

Do not burn yourself out.
Be as I am -
a reluctant enthusiast....
a part-time crusader,
a half-hearted fanatic.
Save the other half of yourselves
And your life for
pleasure and adventure.
It is not enough to fight for the land;
it is even more important to enjoy it.
While you can.
While it is still there.
So get out there and mess around
with your friends, ramble out yonder
and explore the forests,
climb the mountains,
bag the peaks.
Run the rivers,
breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air....
I promise you this one sweet
victory over our enemies,
over those desk bound people
with their hearts in a safe deposit box
and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators.
I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards.

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Season's Greetings to everyone – and good climbing and hiking in 2008! Thanks are extended to all those who have contributed to the newsletter over the past year; your input was much appreciated.
Anne Rodwell

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Cambalala Hut Clem Robins	031 701 6810		082 771 2514	robinsca@xsinet.co.za
Cambalala Bookings Maureen Thomson	031 702 3969			maurn@telkomsa.net
Maritzburg Socials Ian Bailey	(h) 033 345 7501	Fax: 033 345 7501	083 269 6201	ianbailey@telkomsa.net
Mountain Rescue in KZN	082 990 5877 / 10177 (in KZN) / Toll Free: 0800 005 133			
Drakensberg 5 day weather forecast	082 2311602			
MCSA-KZN Section Website	http://kzn.mcsa.org.za			
MCSA (National) Website	www.mcsa.org.za			